

Lexington Baptist sponsors missionary to Russia

Pastor Tom Norton, who has been to Russia twice, once for two weeks and the second time for a month is headed back there. He was originally introduced to Russia through his work, but this time he is going as a missionary.

While in Russia setting up a planer machine for his company and training the operators to run it, he would take time to go to the town square to be among the people. He always had his picture books, which had paper inside for his journal and a Russian phrase book so he was able to communicate with the people.

He was told of an orphanage and the mill secretary, Alina, who was also his interpreter took him there. He then spent most of his time at the orphanage, getting to know the children. He said they longed for someone just to spend time with them, to tell them they are an important person and that God loves them. He explained that orphans to the Russian people are mostly considered to be second-class citizens, a burden to society.

"In Russia the doors are open right now," said Norton. He explained that it is permissible for him to give out Bibles, Bible lessons and to even teach the Bible. "I have a foot in the door to speak at the orphanage as well as in the village of Lazonji," added Norton. His previous interpreter, Alina, has also given him the needed invitation to come to Russia.

Some of the things he wishes to accomplish at the orphanage during his two-week stay include: presenting the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ; repairs and paint as needed; teach conversational English; teach Bible songs in the Russian language; spend much time with all the children; and make his special hot rolls for the entire orphanage.

He has received many letter and pictures from



Tom Norton during a recent trip to Lexington.

children in the orphanage and sees it as a special privilege. Norton said one of the recent letters he received was from a girl who wrote, "Tom Norton, when are you coming back to Russia? Everyone is missing you." He said another girl named Anna wrote, "You were holding my hand as we all walked to the store I imagined you to be my dad. May I call you daddy?"

His scheduled trip date is May 29 through June 12. His wife, Pam, will not be going with him as their youngest daughter is expected to give birth.

"I have grown to love the Russian people and so I pray when I go next time, I will have others accompany me. I would love to take young people on a mission trip as well. What a life changing experience it would be," said Norton.

"I will deliver small toys, gifts and purchase Bibles in Russia with money donated by the congregation of Lexington Baptist Church," said Norton. Lexington Baptist has agreed to be his "sponsoring church." The approximate cost will be \$2500.

If anyone would like to be a part of this mission trip, they can make out a tax-deductible check to Lexington Baptist Church, P.O. Box 561, Lexington, OR 97839. "Russian Mission Trip" should be written on the memo line. Money will go for travel and improvements to the orphanage.



Tom Norton with the children at the orphanage in Russia.

DA's Report

Ronald William Hopkinson was convicted of Harassment, a Class-B misdemeanor. Hopkinson was sentenced to 180 suspended days in jail, one year bench probation, completion of an Anger Management program, 20 hours of community service and payment of \$576 in fines and fees.

Steve Allen Semon was convicted of Recklessly Endangering Another, a Class-A misdemeanor and DUII, a Class-A misdemeanor. Semon's license was suspended for 90 days and he was sentenced to 150 suspended days in jail, two years bench probation, 30 days in jail as a term of probation and payment of \$1412 in fines and fees.

Cherisa Ann Baker pled guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class-C felony. Baker was sentenced to 80 hours of community service, 18 months formal probation, completion of a drug treatment package and payment of \$921 in fines and fees.

Thomas Anthony Beach was convicted of DUII Felony, a Class-C felony. Beach's driver's license was suspended for three years and he was sentenced to 365 days in jail, two years probation and payment of \$294 in fines and fees.

Michael Lewis Dodge was convicted of Harassment, a Class-B misdemeanor. Dodge was sentenced to 180 suspended days in jail, one year bench probation, completion a Batterer's Intervention Program, 20 hours of community service and payment of \$526 in fines and fees.

Kenneth J. Freda was convicted of Resisting Arrest, a Class-A misdemeanor. Freda was sentenced to 365 suspended days in jail, 24 months bench probation, 40 hours of community service, completion of Anger Management and alcohol treatment and payment of \$624 in fines and fees.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

On April 21, St. Patrick's Catholic Church people are hosts for the weekly noon meal at the Heppner Senior Center on the corner of Main and Willow Streets. The menu will consist of meat loaf, oven potatoes, carrots and celery, biscuits and peach cobbler.

Judy Buschke's return to her desk has been delayed by need for more medical attention. Every reader is invited to focus, for a moment, silently, on her unimpeded recovery and continued health. We, at the Center, miss her.

The senior bus continues its regular schedule to Hermiston each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This service is for seniors, and any disabled persons, who need transportation for medical and medically related appointments. Others may use the service on a seat available basis. Check with the Center office at least 24 hours ahead of time. The same service is offered to Pendleton and Walla Walla each Tuesday and Thursday.

Ed Baker, bus coordinator, informs us that he has some other trips in the planning stage. Watch for announcements. He also welcomes suggestions from individuals or groups who have ideas for bus outings for one day.

The next scheduled Center board meeting is April 21 at 12 noon.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Exec. Dir.

I took a vacation and spring came and went on Main Street. In just two weeks I missed the flowering trees. What happened? Additional proof that time just flies by no matter where you are. Nothing waits, each day is a gift as we experience new things and find something to treasure.

The 2004 Willow Creek Calendar of Events has been revised again and is another example of why time passes quickly. With all the events coming down the pike, people don't have a minute to be bored. I know there are more to be listed if organizations will keep the Chamber informed. Check out www.Heppner.net/chamber to see a schedule of activities.

Mark your calendars to put on those walking shoes and participate in the MS Walkathon this Saturday, April 17. Grab a cold drink and sit on the sidelines as the Columbia Plateau State Racers head out of Heppner on May 7. Be a part of the 2004 Annual Poker Run or the Opal Butte 100 at the OHV Park on May 15 and 16. Plan to enjoy the Memorial Day Dinner at the Heppner Senior Center on May 30. And take time to plant some flowers. With a bat of an eye, another month is gone.

The Heppner Chamber welcomes new members Terry and Cheryl Tallman. Are you a Chamber member? If not, come visit and get to know our members every Tuesday at noon. Programs range from First Tuesday when all entities report on area successes and challenges to a variety of speakers each week. On the third Tuesday, we encourage retailers and restaurant owners to come share thoughts and ideas for growing Heppner. Future programs in the works are the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, running an Internet business, Art Hill from BMCC, Morrow County Cultural Arts Coalition, etc. Suggestions are appreciated.

And now to delve into a book that just arrived from the Ford Foundation, "Working With Differences In Communities." It behooves all of us to make a good faith effort to understand others' points of view, to stretch ourselves to look beyond our own opinions and to then find middle ground... maybe it's called growing in a positive direction. Onward and upward.

Sad is Not Bad raffle tickets available through April

As previously reported, Pioneer Memorial Hospice is raffling a giant gift basket of goodies to earn money for its new children's grief program called, "Sad is not Bad." With the help of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, the basket has made its way from Heppner to Condon, Arlington, Irrigon, Boardman and Ione as its last stop. After a two-week stay in Ione the basket will come home for the drawing of the raffle winner.

The program, "Sad is not Bad," presented by Pioneer Memorial Hospice (PMH) staff, offers instruction for helping children manage grief. "Sad is not Bad" is also donating books to each school that can be then gifted to a child who has recently suffered a loss. The program has been offered to all six of the elementary schools in Morrow and Gilliam counties. The response from the school has been very favorable, with PMH giving out about 20 books over the past three months.

In January, the Morrow County employees ALS/SCME Union Local 2497 donated \$350 to kick-off this fundraiser. Molly Rhea, Hospice Director, quickly put the money to good use purchasing several copies of each book. The titles being offered include, "We Were Going To Have a Baby, But Had an Angel Instead," "When Someone Very Special Dies," "When Someone Has a Very Serious Illness," "When Something Terrible Happens," "When Mom and Dad Separate," "When a Family is in Trouble" (this book speaks to drug and alcohol addictions), and "When a Parent Marries Again".

The basket is currently on display at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione, with raffle tickets available at each bank branch through April 28. The winning ticket will be drawn Sunday, May 2, and the basket will then be delivered or shipped to the recipient. Raffle tickets for this basket, valued at \$200, are \$5 each, or five tickets for \$20.

If you would like more information about "Sad is not Bad" and the gift books, or about Pioneer Memorial Hospice, please call Molly Rhea at (541) 676-2946.

MCSO to send 20 students to Oregon Writing Festival

The Morrow County School District will be sending 20 students to the Annual Oregon Writing Festival. This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 24, at Portland State University in Portland.

The Oregon Writing Festival is sponsored by the Oregon Council of Teachers of English and will be a very rewarding experience for the students. They anticipate that more than 1000 students from all over the state will be attending and sharing in the day's exciting and enriching activities.

The Morrow County School District provides the funding required for students and staff to attend this important educational event.

The following students will be attending: Jared Huddleston and Emily Thompson, Heppner Elementary; Mason Cowan, Kala Neider and Joel Orozco, Irrigon Elementary; Jessica

Neighborhood Center to have potato giveaway

The Heppner Neighborhood Center will be giving away frozen French fries and hash browns on Thursday, April 15 at 12 p.m. Everyone is welcome and donations are accepted.

We Print Business Cards Heppner Gazette-Times

Heppner and Ione Seniors!
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DINNER SPECIALS
 COMING UP AT JOHN'S PLACE

CHINESE BUFFET NIGHT on April 24th

Mexican Buffet Night on May 8th

Prime Rib Weekend on May 14th-15th

German Buffet on May 22nd

JOHN'S PLACE
 MAIN STREET, HEPPNER



Hi-Ho! Hi-Ho!
 It's Over The Hill
 You Goo!
Happy 40th Birthday, Jim
 We Love You Lots!
 Gina, Mike & Judy,
 David & Heather